

# THE OBSERVER



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Issue 9

## Ex-Skinhead Shares His Journey from Hatred to Compassion

Sara Post  
Editor-in-Chief

Last Tuesday evening, Feb. 19, St. Joseph's faculty, staff and students filed into the Shen auditorium for a very unique personal presentation.

Frank Meeink, an ex-skinhead from Philadelphia was brought to the College through the collaboration of the Diversity Coalition, Academic Affairs, the Criminal Justice club and the English department in order to share his authentic oral biography.

Meeink was exposed to violence in his mother's home as a young child before he was sent to live with his father. He also witnessed violence in his new school, skipped classes and was suspended on several occasions. After graduating from the eighth grade Meeink was introduced to a group of skinheads through a cousin.

At first he didn't listen to the group's hateful and racial talks. But the group taught hate through the Bible and after a while Meeink began to listen to their perverted teachings. "They made me believe I was an Arian Christian Soldier marching for God," he said, "I hated everyone in the pit of my stomach."

Meeink became more involved over the next few years. He was arrested after mobbing a concert in a club and although he broke from his nazi sect he became involved in another. A short time later he called a meeting and the members began harassing and beating two Cambodian men who were near by. The woman with the two men lost her baby after a skinhead threw a cinder block at her through her car window.

A warrant of arrest was issued for Meeink and he fled to several different locations, always taking refuge among skinhead factions. He tried to kill himself twice and escaped from a mental hospital in Terre Haute. Still fleeing from arrest

Meeink settled in Illinois and began airing a cable program promoting skinhead beliefs and activity.

At the age of seventeen, Meeink was finally arrested on an aggravated kidnapping charge. He and a

ally Meeink was compelled to turn his life around and began to speak about his experiences to civil rights groups and student audiences. In an effort to get more involved in his newfound conviction, he started a youth hockey club for inner city kids in Philadelphia.

Meeink was approached by three separate production companies interested in writing a movie based on his life. Although he declined these offers, because he felt the publicity at that time would undermine his work with his youth hockey program, *American History X* was released without his permission. Some changes were made and Meeink did not

like the way the main character's conversion was portrayed in the movie. "I don't buy it," he said. "Change doesn't happen overnight. I changed through God and the Bible. It's sad that Hollywood won't put the Bible out there like that."

Besides sharing his story Meeink

does not actively counteract skinhead activity. But he firmly believes skinhead interest is dying out and that the groups undermine themselves. "The best thing I can do now," he said, "is stay vocal."

Meeink was invited to share his story as part of the College's celebration of black history month. The month's activities have been geared not only to remember the importance of black citizens to our culture, but also to combat racial prejudice and hatred. Meeink's presentation was well attended and the audience was responsive to his story.

Dr. Bill Mottolese was happy with the student turnout and found Meeink's story interesting. "He told a story which at first didn't seem like much, but what a story! There are few things more powerful than an honest story well told."

Sophomore Dannielle Pruett found Meeink's story to be a powerful one. "I thought it was very interesting," she commented. "Despite everything, he said that he would not change his life because he believes that God showed him the way through his actions for a reason. That's inspiring."

Senior David Banks thought that Meeink's story was one the College community needed to hear. "He was one of the most inspiring and phenomenal speakers to ever grace our campus. His story was very emotional and heartfelt, but he still conveyed the message that we are all equal and that we should pity, not hate, those who think otherwise because of their lack of knowledge," he said. "Before I went to hear him speak, I had nothing but disdain for people who thought the way racist people think. Because of his speech though, I pity them for living in their own ignorance and not getting the chance to meet extraordinary people of every culture. I think that Frank's presentation touched my life and the lives of the other people who observed him."



Frank Meeink shares his story with the Saint Joseph's College community.

friend had severely beaten and threatened a skinhead of a different faction. After Meeink and his friend released the man, he went straight to the police.

Although he was held in a state prison in Illinois for a sentence of three to five years, Meeink returned to a position of success and respect among the skinheads of Philadelphia upon his release. But his conviction to hatred began to diminish. In prison he had formed relationships which had helped him break through racial hatred.

He began to drift from his skinhead friends. Eventually



The Shen Auditorium was filled Tuesday night with faculty and students eager to hear Meeink's story.

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## Missing: Gary Condit

Mike Potts  
Reporter

On September 11, the twin towers came crashing down, not only on the streets of New York, but on the entire nation as well. The towers fell hard on America. The event echoed that of another surprise attack on America, both of which will forever "live in infamy."

There has been no other news concerning much else since that tragic day, unless one was to go out searching for it. "America's New War," or "America Strikes Back" are the headlines. We would probably feel offended if we did not open a newspaper or flip to CNN and not read or hear these lines. However, while this event deserves the coverage it receives, I believe Americans should feel offended for the news and other events that deserve equal attention, events that are being overshadowed.

Now, take a moment to reflect. Think about what was happening prior to September 11. Was there

no other news? Of course there was. For This article is not meant to condemn anyone. It is not to blame Gary Condit or anyone else for Levy's disappearance. It is simply to remind America that there are other things worth fighting for. Terrorism? Yes, but do not let that be our only war. Should we not fight for justice in any realm? This article is to refresh Americans' thoughts. I think it is safe to say, in retrospect, that many of us were appalled by the story. Many of us pointed fingers at Condit. We thought he was expressionless and conceited.

In my observations, to hear people talk on the street or to hear a panel argue on television, suggests this was the mood of Americans. They believed Condit knew something, they just "didn't know what." If we believed it *then*, if we were con-

cerned about this missing woman *then*, shouldn't we feel the same now?

America, we have a short attention span. One day, something is hot, the next it is not; an entertainer can be on top of the world one week and be gone the next. We jump from fad to fad and never look back. Nevertheless, the story of Chandra Levy is no less important today than it was yesterday. Certainly, there have been other things to worry about. Certainly there are thousands of other missing persons, but let this case help bring the others to light. Do not let terrorism, or our economy, or anything else overshadow things that mirror in importance. I suppose we should not ask the question, where's Gary Condit? We already know that. Though he may not be plastered on television, we know he is on the Hill legislating. Perhaps a better question would be, where's "Chandra Levy?"

*Got something on your mind?*

*Want to voice your opinion? Don't just sit there, submit it to The Observer! Email your comments to Mandy at mme2712.*

## Letter to the Editor

*One student's concerns about the controversial coed housing policy*

Erick Smith

At this point in time, you've all heard the word, coed housing could become a way of life for some residents on campus as early as next year. Obviously there are some people that are for it, and some that are against it. The general idea is that the men will become less destructive and it benefits both male and female maturity levels. Also according to the last edition of The Observer and David Weed's article, more cross sex friendships result.

Now that's fine, good and makes plenty of sense. However I think there are some cons here that were missed, and please understand this is just from a bit of rudimentary research, and is not meant to bash the residence life committee or David Weed's research. However, aren't the victims of rape more often than not put in to that position by friends? And with more cross-sexual friendships? Well draw your own conclusions.

Also, I pulled up a short snippet of data from the Education Development Center. I quote directly

from their site, and please e-mail me if you would like the link, "One study of campus housing which asked in three separate questions whether students had experienced unwanted looks and gestures, sexual teasing, or deliberate touching while in coed residence halls, found that about 50 percent of women residents answered yes for at least one of these questions. In addition, nearly 40 percent had experienced unwanted social contact and 30 percent unwanted kissing or fondling." I say nothing, but leave these somewhat disparaging comments for you to review.

Students, I encourage you to make an informed decision when it comes to coed housing. Don't just consider what they tell you, do some research, get together and talk about it with other students, share perspectives and thoughts.

As an alternate question consider this, do we as a campus really have the capabilities to make coed housing an effective and safe reality in six months or less?

## THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO HMM...

Why are students so lazy? Is there really a reason to drive to class or the cafe? I know it's a long haul, but c'mon. This is SJC, not Purdue. I didn't get the memo that said our feet went out of style.

I know boys will be boys, but can someone tell me why the tree by Noll is decorated with phones, shoes, etc.? Call me crazy but Christmas is over.

I hear people complain all the time. From in the cafe or on my way to class, students whine about this or that. Yet no one seems to have an opinion to submit for *The Observer*. Imagine that.

Most people in college realize their Prom days are over. So why is it that some girls come to class with hair and make done up like they're ready to dance the night away?

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*The Observer  
wishes every-  
one a very  
happy and  
safe Spring  
Break!*



## PRESIDENT MILLS HONORED AT RECEPTION

Bree Ma'Aytha  
Reporter

Rensselaer, IN -  
On Thursday,  
Feb. 21 at 7 p.m.

EST, Kevin and Jane White, 1972 and 1973 graduates of St. Joseph's College, respectively, hosted a reception for SJC president Ernest Mills, III.

The reception aimed to introduce Mills to SJC alumni and constituents in the South Bend area. It also provided Mills with the opportunity to update attendees about the current state of St. Joseph's College.

"(Alumni and constituents) need to have a report on the state of the college. At the end of the day, they are the stakeholders, and they should know how St. Joseph's College is doing," Mills said.

Kevin White is currently the athletic director at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend; Jane White is a former educator/administrator at Central Michigan University, and an active supporter of athletics at Notre Dame. Jane White stated that she and her husband were pleased host the reception in their home for Mills.



"It's a privilege to receive and help introduce (Mills) and his wife to the alumni in the South Bend area," she said. "He's a very strong and determined leader," Kevin White added. "He's going to leave a wonderful impact on the college."

Mills, SJC's sixteenth president, was inaugurated on Aug. 23, 2001. Mills has an extensive history in Catholic higher education. He has served both as professor of philosophy and dean of students at Canaan College in New Hampshire, Wheeling College in West Virginia, and Mount St. Mary College in New York. He was appointed vice president for development at Mount Saint Mary College in 1984,

and served the college in that position until he was selected for the position of president at St. Joseph's College, where he began work as president July 9.

## THE SCIENCE OLYMPIAD COMES TO RENSSELAER

On Saturday February 16<sup>th</sup>, Saint Joseph's College hosted the annual Science Olympiad Competition. Students from surrounding schools attended the event to demonstrate their knowledge and love of science.

"The goal of Science Olympiad is for middle school and high school students interested in science to have the opportunity to work on various science projects as an extracurricular activity. The students work with their teachers to practice some of the many events offered at the regional, state, and national Olympiads. After lots of practice, the students come together to compete against one another for a chance to advance," commented Sarah Morningstar, '03.

A team of SJC professors and top science students coordinated the events. SJC Professor Robert Pfaff has been a participant in the Science Olympiad for the past nine years. When asked about the events, Pfaff commented, "You name it. There are events ranging from bottle rocketry (as in 2-liter pop bottles...not fireworks) to insects to rocks to chemistry to Rube

Goldberg machines (machines to accomplish a specific goal in many steps, rather than a few) to orienteering/map reading."

Junior, Todd Huff took an active role in planning and running the day. He commented, "I enjoyed supervising the boomilever event. One of the structures was able to support 15 kg and had a structural efficiency of 466! [I think] Science Olympiad is an excellent opportunity to promote the sciences at the middle and high school levels."

Both Huff and Morningstar are planning to teach science after they graduate in 2003. The Olympiad serves to reinforce the lessons learned in the classroom, and give future teachers some added out-of-class experience.

This year's Olympiad was a special benchmark for the SJC community, it marked and honored the service and legacy of Professor Duvall Jones. "One of the highlights of this year's Olympiad was presenting Dr. Duvall Jones with a plaque and clock in honor of his many years of dedication to the program," commented Huff.



Courtesy of Fr. William Stang

### Celebrate the Season of Lent, Puma Style!

Eucharistic Adoration -  
Thursday, February 28  
@ 7 p.m.

Stations of the Cross -  
Thursday, March 14 @  
7 p.m.

Eucharistic Adoration -  
Thursday, March 21 @  
7 p.m.

### Reminder to All Juniors and Seniors:

The Etiquette Dinner and Career Style Show is being held on Thursday, March 14 from 6:30 - 9:00 (approximate) in the Halleck Center Ballroom. (brought to you by the Office of Student Development)

## Saint Joseph's College Bands Remember September 11th



The Saint Joseph's College Instrumental Music Department held its Annual Pops Concert on Sunday February 24. Showcased were SJC's Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band and Jazz Bands. All three ensembles gave a stellar performance. The program centered on a patriotic theme and was dedicated to the memory of the September 11<sup>th</sup> victims and their families.



photos courtesy of John Ligda and Nick Schafer



# No Snow, But We Can Still Hate Winter!

Susan Huss  
Features Editor

A trip to the Bahamas. A personal masseuse. A band that plays in the style of Dave Matthews Band. Watching people make fools of themselves. Laughing 'til your sides hurt. Taking time out from your homework in order to color and play with play-doh. What more could you ask for?

During the week of Feb. 18 through Feb. 24, Saint Joseph's College students could experience these things and more during the annual I Hate Winter Week. The week kicked off with comedian Buzz Sutherland on Monday night and ended with the a performance by the band *Domestic Problems*. In between, events included a relaxation/therapy day, a rendition of *Survivor* called *Outcast*, and the Dating Game.

With several new events this year, I Hate Winter Week seemed to be a success, according to sophomore Lisa Fruecht.

"I thought this was a really fun week overall," Fruecht said. "It's hard to pick a favorite event, but I think *Outcast* was really fun to participate in for the time I was up there. It was also interactive with the audience and entertaining to watch."

Other students, including junior Don Shuler, agreed that *Outcast* was the most entertaining of the events.

"*Outcast* [was the best because] you were being entertained by people doing crazy stuff because they were desperate to win a trip [to the Bahamas]. The funniest part was when they did a lip sync. [Joe] Guzman had a bikini bottom and top on and was jumping around doing cheerleading stuff."

Sophomore Theresa Yoder added, "I hope to see *Outcast* again next year! It was my favorite event because I was able to actively participate as an audience member by voting."

Sophomore Dannielle Pruett, who helped plan these events as the SUB Special Events Co-chair, had a different opinion as to what the highlight of the week was.

"I think it was a close tie between Buzz Sutherland and the relaxation day," she said. "I absolutely loved Buzz. As a comedian, it is really hard to make a variety of people laugh, especially when you are working with such a diverse audience. You have to worry about offending certain people and not being vulgar. But Buzz was great. His humor was natural, and he was a funny guy making us laugh, just like one of our friends. The show kept going even after he was offstage. I also liked the relaxation day because it was a way for us to also provide an event for day students. It

was nice to be able to use a free hour of your time and go up and relax doing sand art or getting a massage instead of going back to the dorm when you didn't have anything to do."

Pruett said the changes this year came because of a joint effort between several of the SUB members.

"We had seen *Domestic Problems* and Buzz Sutherland perform at NACA (National Association for Campus Activities), and we loved their shows. So we booked them for I Hate Winter Week. [The members of the band] weren't just good musicians, but they seemed to be great entertainers as well."

Pruett said she thought this year's I Hate Winter Week went well, based on the attendance numbers and positive feedback she heard. She believes more people got involved this year than previously. It could be that the new events drew people in.

"I went to the relaxation day, and I loved it," sophomore Kristen Putt said. "I would love to have this type of thing more often around here. I did most of the activities and even got my picture drawn. It was lots of fun, and I'm glad we had this here."

Shuler agreed the week went well this year: "I was more aware of stuff, and *Outcast* was much better than the suitcase party. And even though I didn't get to go to the relaxation day, I liked the idea. It would be nice to do it once a month."

Pruett said the SUB members were very excited with the success of I Hate Winter Week. Now, she is already starting to think about what will happen next year.

"We would like to reproduce in some way the things that people liked about I Hate Winter Week, but something that we have learned is that it's beneficial to change your programming so that people have something new and fresh all the time. We don't want to get into the slump of, 'They did this last year,' etc....but we will definitely do our best to make next year just as good, maybe even better than this year!"

## I Hate Winter Week 2002

Congratulations to Joe Guzman the winner of *Outcast* and the rest of the contestants for giving it their best.

Also thanks to the Student Union Board for planning a great week of events.

# Spring Break: 9 Days of Kicking Back

Spring break has become an American tradition among college students. Since the sixties, teens have taken to the beach to forget their studies and have a week of fun. However, students at Saint Joseph's College have opted for other types of spring break travel ideas this year.

Sophomore Maggie Makovac has decided to travel to France to meet with her twin brother, who is studying abroad. She said, "My sister and I are going to Paris. Then we'll meet him for a couple of days. Good food and great wine, can't beat that. I am so excited because I have never been to Europe, and I want to get a taste of it. I hear it's addicting."

Sophomore, Megan Ratterman, has decided to head west to Utah and hit the slopes for her break. Ratterman described her break in detail: "I plan to go snowboarding all week with my brothers and my father. We are going to be staying in a cabin located on the ski resort, Snow Basin. Right now the men's downhill races for the Olympics are being held there, so I will be snowboarding down the same slopes they compete on. I haven't been snowboarding since last winter, and I am dying to touch the snow, especially since we haven't had any here. But mostly, I am just looking forward to seeing my big brothers and my Daddy because we don't get to see each other that much. They all live in Utah, and it's hard to get our schedules to match. It's a little strange that I am going someplace where it is cold for spring break, but I would rather be with them on a snow covered mountain than on a sunny beach any day."

Despite Ratterman's views, there are students at SJC that believe that the tradition of heading south for break should not be broken. Junior Richard

Colleen Flynn  
Reporter

Delgado and several members of the men's soccer team have decided to visit Louisiana. Delgado mainly looks forward to the academic break,

"I am going to New Orleans for spring break, Delgado said. The thing I am most looking forward to is getting away from class for a while. It will be nice not to worry about reading or studying for quizzes. Spring break will give me a chance to hang out with my friends in a new place, and I will also have the opportunity to meet new people. I have never been to New Orleans, so it will be fun to experience something different."

Junior Michelle Grubb has decided to spend her vacation in Orlando, home of Disney world. She said that, "I am most looking forward to seeing my friend in Orlando. I also can't wait for the warm weather and the break from school!"

Junior Caroline Monforton decided that her break will consist of rest and celebrating Junior Tina Bednarczyk's twenty-first birthday. Monforton states, "I am going to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina for spring break. I am looking forward to doing absolutely nothing except for the occasional jog. I am looking forward to [spending time with] Tina on her 21st birthday, because she celebrates the big day on the Tuesday of spring break. The weather should be really nice, in the high 60's, low 70's while we are down there, so we should come back looking well rested and have somewhat of a tan."

Though some students from SJC have made their plans for spring break, it's never too late to make travel arrangements. Hopefully everyone will have a safe, fun trip and come back in one piece!



## Puma Profile: Sarah

## O'Connor

In the jungles of the  
Indianapolis Zoo

Katie Davet  
Reporter



Would you like to experience something that you saw on TV? SJC's own Sarah O'Connor did just that by volunteering at the exotic animal exhibit at the Indianapolis Zoo.

O'Connor, a junior biology major from Attica, learned about this opportunities while watching a program on Animal Planet about Moorpark College in California. This school deals with exotic animals, so O'Connor's interest was sparked. She searched the internet to find out about options through the Indianapolis Zoo. Her training/orientation got underway at the end of January, 2002. She is sched-

uled now to volunteer on Thursday mornings from 8 a.m. until noon.

The Indianapolis Zoo opened on April 18, 1964 and became one of the state's most popular tourist attractions. However, due to many complications with its location, the zoo had to shut down after 23 years. On June 11, 1988 the new and improved Indianapolis Zoo reopened with many new exhibits. Its mission statement is to provide for a greater appreciation of wildlife. Due to her love for animals, O'Connor will fit right in at the zoo.

O'Connor will work with a zookeeper and have daily duties, including feedings, enrichment exercises, and routine cleanings. "The work is extremely unglamorous, but very rewarding," O'Connor said.

O'Connor feels that this volunteer experience in some way will become part of her career. She is looking into veterinary schools that offer wildlife and exotic animal programs. She is also doing research on what it is like in the zoo keeper profession.

O'Connor's assigned section at the zoo is the Australian Plains. This area includes animals such as kangaroos, wallabies—which look like smaller kangaroos—black swans, and emus—related to the ostrich. Her supervisor is Jackie Pondy, Plains Manager. O'Connor said there are opportunities for other SJC students in this field. Interested students will have to complete and send in an application, attend orientation, and schedule a time for an interview.

"Anyone can become a zoo volunteer by simply filling out the application located online," she said. There are many different areas where students can volunteer their time such as animal care, environmental education, zoo library assistant, clerical assistant, missionary assistant, zoo horticulture gardener, character mascot, and special events. O'Connor enjoys her volunteer work and believes it will help her in the future.

"Volunteering at the Indianapolis Zoo has provided me the opportunity to get a behind the scenes look at one aspect of the animal care profession. Whatever your motivation, volunteering at the Indianapolis Zoo can be very rewarding," O'Connor said.

If you are interested in writing for the Features section of the *Observer*, please contact Susan Huss at ex. 8200 or by email at shg3609. Also, feel free to offer any suggestions you might have for what you would like to see in the Features section.

## Career Center Connections

Kelli Bridges  
Reporter

### What's with all of these forks?

#### Etiquette Dinner & Style Show

The Career Center and Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) will be hosting an Etiquette Dinner and Style Show on March 14, 2002 from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Halleck Center Ballroom. This event is open to juniors and seniors. Invitations have gone out and RSVP's are due back to your resident assistant by Wednesday, Feb. 27. For those of you living in the apartments and those that are day students, please bring your RSVP to the Career Center by Feb. 27.

There will be 13 alumni present to sit with students and share their dining experiences and to sponsor the event. The alumni sponsorships will help pay for the students' dinner; however, a meal will be deducted from attendee's meal plan. It is of extreme importance that you, as students, attend this event since alumni are willing to come here for the evening to speak with you, so get your RSVP's in! The alumni that are coming back are:

Stephen Ligda- non-profit, management  
Mark Randall- non-profit, marketing  
Bruce Hicks- writing/editing  
Julie Suhr- education  
Bill Gill- accounting  
Jill Masters- human services  
Lori Winkler- consulting/sales  
Aaron Winkler- banking  
John Waymire- elementary school principal  
Susan Welter- legislative/politics  
Derek Dabrowiak- mass communications  
Mike Evans- science/research  
Jason Garing- information systems.

Steve Santo will be the host of the etiquette dinner portion of the evening and will tell students what proper dining etiquette is. Dabrowiak, a 2001 grad, will be the DJ for the fashion show portion. The event promises to be a good time!

If you are still not convinced to attend, there are several more perks to this event! For instance, this is a great way to network with alumni, to find out how they like their job, talk to them about possible job opportunities, etc. The food is going to be great, with grilled chicken, rice pilaf, vegetables, sherbet, and pound cake. Also, six restaurants have agreed to donate gift certificates: Pepe's, Apple Bees, TGIFriday's, Olive Garden, City Office & Pub, and Casa Gallardo. The gift certificates will be used as door prizes.

The dress code for the evening is business dress casual, meaning you can wear khakis or a nice pair of slacks, polo or button down shirt, sweaters, etc: Jeans, T-shirts, jogging pants, etc., are not appropriate dress. So, while you are home for spring break, remember to grab some dress clothes.

Have a safe and fun spring break, and we will see you at the Etiquette Dinner & Style Show on March 14!



# Puma Profile: Brent Mason

Rebecca Scherer  
Reporter

With less than two months of school left, the men's basketball team season is rapidly coming to a close. For many, next year promises new victories; for a few, there will be no "next year." For seniors such as Brent Mason, forward on the team, those last few games marked the end of their basketball careers.

Recruited while attending Harrison High School in Lafayette, Mason's main reason for attending SJC was so he would have a chance to play in a conference game. Mason was hoping that he had a shot at getting in the conference tournament, but after the team pulled together and played strong even into an overtime, they lost their final game 69-66. Mason's averages 16

points per game, but at the final game against Lewis University, he scored 30 points for the team. He also grabbed 11 rebounds.

"We play well when we play together as a team," Mason stated. "Good defense equals more wins for us."

As a physical education major and secondary education minor, his post-college are looking for a teaching or coaching job in the area, close to his family, or someplace warm, like Florida.

Teammate Marvin Smith had only good things to say about Mason. Smith

raved about Mason's offensive skills, and assured that [Mason] will definitely be missed next year. "Brent has so much talent... we really need him on the floor with us. He is the heart and soul of the team... he's

"He's a good kid, a great guy...and an excellent teammate," Greg Muller said.

our nucleus."

Greg Muller, another one of Mason's teammates, had similarly positive things to say about him. "Brent's definitely our best player. He's a good kid, a great guy on and off the court, and an excellent teammate."

Mason took Muller under his wing, in a sense, by showing the now sophomore the "ropes" here at SJC. Mason showed him how to play ball at the college level, and helped bring Muller's game to where it is now.

Even though the season reached its end, Puma basketball fans have enjoyed watching Mason on the court, and many will miss him off the court as well.



**Brent Mason**

Year: Senior  
Sport: Basketball  
Position: Forward  
Average Pts. per game: 15.5  
Mason was the highest scorer for the season with a total of 342 points

## "The Inside Corner:" Critiquing the Olympics

Erik Steffen  
columnist

Well the Winter Olympics are wrapping up pretty soon and a few notable things happened this year. First off, America finished first with a total of 35 total medals. In the past the USA has only been just above average in the winter Olympic Games.

The first amazing thing that happened this year in Salt Lake City is the sweep of the men's Snowboard Super Pipe by the United States. In a sport, snowboarding, that could have only been invented in a place like the United States, it is only fitting that we clean sweep its inaugural showing at an Olympic Games; and on home soil, no less.

The pairs Figure Skating event proved to be quite the scandal. But hey, Ice Skating needs all the extra excitement it can get. While I agree something screwy went on with the judging and what-not, I really know so little about skating that I can't make an accurate assumption. But what I do know is that a tie does not, somehow, seem like a legitimate victory. There is a definite taint to that Canada Gold.

Canada also came up big in the Men's Hockey finals. Everyone ruled them out but themselves and their

coach, Wayne Gretzky. Wayne told the media not to rule them out, and he was called a whiner. But low and behold, they came back and beat the U.S. in the finals 5-2.

Hockey, bar none, is the most exciting event in the Winter Olympics. It is basically an NHL All-Star game that has the highest of implications. They covet Olympic Gold almost as much (if not more) than the Stanley Cup (which many consider the most respected trophy in national sports).

There were the usual feel good stories that seem to only pop up during the Olympics. You know, your usual lost-legs-in-accident-had-them-reattached-3-days-before-the-Olympics-won-gold-in-nordic-combined story. Call me a pessimist (and many do) but I try not to let NBC pull my emotional strings too much.

NBC had way too much control of the Olympics this year. They tape-delayed events that took place, at most, 2 hours away from any place in the United States. Also, they did not grant re-broadcasting rights to any other stations. ESPN was delegated to show live events, like it was some Mike Tyson championship fight instead of the men's biathlon semi-finals that pits Belarus vs. Turkey.

Over all, I think the Olympics proved more interesting than I thought they would, but NBC could have done a better job. Commercials during action in the Gold Medal Game for Hockey was a big no-no.

Also, their announcers, combined, have half the personality that any of the ESPN or FOX guys do. The next trip: to Athens for the Summer Games in two years. Hopefully they don't treat the Olympians like they do visiting soccer teams. Recently

many chairs were torn out of the stands and thrown onto the field in a post-game riot. The dog-pound doesn't even hold a candle to the crazy's in Europe.

## Puma Fan Base

WHAT HAPPENS WITH SPORTS WHEN THEY LEAVE THEIR DESIGNATED ARENA.

### "Here comes the Birdie!"

So we don't have an actual badminton team here (any smell an editorial coming on?!). That did not stop sophomore Lisa Fruecht from playing a game. She just set up a makeshift court in the Justin Hall basement, found a friend, and let the games begin!



If anyone is interested in contributing their talents to *The Observer Sports* section, email Melissa, Mgg3598@saintjoe.edu



## BASKETBALL TEAMS END SEASON: THERE IS NO "I" IN TEAM

Bridget Newman  
Reporter

Players on both the men's and women's Saint Joseph's College basketball teams agree that they work better when they work together. Freshman forward/center Jen Steele commented that games the Lady Pumas won have a lot to do with how well players have bonded as a team. "We're all really close. All the upperclassmen have helped us [freshman] out."

Junior guard Karin Morisroe echoed Steele's comments. Morisroe noted that one of her personal goals for the season was, "to be more of a team leader." Women's coach Lynn Plett noted that the entire team has demonstrated defensive improvements. He added, "We're a more competitive team this year."

The team's improvement was certainly demonstrated in their away game against Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Both players and coach agree this game, in which the ladies won 90-86, was one of their more stellar performances. Morisroe said of the game, "We showed up ready to play and executed everything we needed to."

On the future of the team, Plett stated, "We need to continue to think and play hard at the same time. We need to play with intensity and play smart." As of February 16<sup>th</sup>, the team was 7-15 and 6-10 in conference. The team's goal is to make it into the conference tournament. Even if

the team does not make it in this 2002 season, there are no seniors on the team so everyone will have another opportunity.

This is not so for the men's basketball team. For seniors Brent Mason, Marlin Murphy, and Emery Moore, this is their last chance to go all the way in college basketball. As of February 9<sup>th</sup>, the men were 6-16 and 3-13 in conference. At the same time last year, the team was 13-10 and 7-7 in conference.

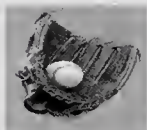
Coach Ken Carillo said improvement needed to be made in the team's offense. He said, "Rebounds are good. We are more efficient with the ball. We're a better passing team." Senior forward Brent Mason commented, "We play best when we control the tempo of the game."

Mason felt the Puma's best game was that against Southern Indiana at home on January 19<sup>th</sup>. The men won 92-87. Mason attributed the win to solid defense and because the

team was "unselfish." Carillo also mentioned Northern Kentucky as a tough

competitor that the Pumas defeated.

Regardless of the outcome of either the men's or women's seasons, everyone involved seemed pleased with the teams' performances. This year was a growing year, a chance for players and coaches alike to expand on ideas and practices to determine what works best. The goal, though, has always been the same: to win. The method, too, has always been the same: to do it together.



## SJC Baseball: Two Wins in Kentucky



The men's baseball team traveled to Spalding University in Kentucky last weekend, and although they lost the first of the three games they played, 2-1, the other two games were favorable to SJC, with a win of 8-6 on the second of Saturday's games, and 8-5 on Feb. 24.

Besides proving that there is a Puma team that can actually win, it was an ego boost for the team, which will be displaying their talents in Florida this weekend.

"We finally got our first win of the season...it seems like we finally know how to win. We can use that to help us win other games. It seems like we are the kind of team that can do that. We just needed something to get us going," said Mark Stasch. Stasch had to sit out the games due to an injury, but was part of the traveling team for support. "I was kind of there for moral support and to help out the younger guys," he said.

The rest of the team has favorable comments about the weekend.

"[Sunday's game] was a good game. Jimmy O'Dette pitched the game very well," said Tony Schmid, "[O'Dette] got the win. Myszak got off the bench and hit big when we needed it."

Mike Stowski pointed out other key players and reasons for the team's success this weekend.

"Scott Gardner hit a single in the seventh inning to tie. On Saturday, Schmid hit a three-run homer to give us the lead."

O'Dette felt that overall, the team played their hearts out. "In the first game, Nawrocki pitched. He threw unbelievably, but we still lost 2-1. We battled, though. It was a great game." Although the first game was lost, there was an incredible difference with the last two games. "We had eight runs, so we were able to work with something."

In response to the Sunday's game, O'Dette said, "Andy Augsberger threw, and he did an excellent job. The hitters were Schmid, Murdesh, Welsch, Guest, Bosserdet. They all had key hits, and they all hit really well."

Besides working well offensively, Schmid continued, "We played really good defense."

The team will be spending their spring break competing in Florida against various other colleges and universities. "[The last weekend's wins] were a big confidence boost into going to Florida. [Two weeks ago] we should have won those two games, but lost in the last innings."

Nonetheless, now that the team has started to see their potential, hopefully everything will continue in the same manner. "We're playing great baseball," said O'Dette.

## Upcoming Events

Mar. 1-10

\* (through Mar. 10) Softball

- Spring Rebel Games, Orlando Florida AWAY TBA

Mar. 2

\* (through Mar. 10) Baseball  
- Spring Trip, Brandon, Florida AWAY TBA

Mar. 4

\* Men's Tennis - Eckard College AWAY 3 pm

Mar. 5

\* Men's Tennis - vs. Averett @ Eckard College AWAY 10 am

\* Men's Tennis - vs. Lake Superior State @ Greenleaf Resort AWAY 6:30 pm

Mar. 6

\* Men's Tennis - vs. Wabash College @ Greenleaf Resort AWAY 8 am

\* Men's Tennis - St. Leo AWAY 3 pm

Mar. 8-9

\* Men's Track and Field - NCAA Indoor National Championship (Boston, MA) AWAY 11 am

\* Women's Track and Field - NCAA Indoor National Championship (Boston, MA) AWAY 11 am

Mar. 12

\* Softball - St Francis (IN) HOME 3 pm

\* Baseball - Olivet Nazarene University (Bourbonnais, IL) AWAY 3 pm

Mar. 14

\* Softball - St. Francis (IL) HOME 3 pm

\* Baseball - Valparaiso University HOME 2:30 pm

Mar. 16

\* Softball - St. Xavier University (Chicago) AWAY 1 pm

\* Track and Field - Wabash College Relays AWAY 11 am

Information and quotes  
compiled by Melissa  
Genova, Sports Editor

## SJC Sports in Short...

*information with a bang, kick,  
wham, a-par, and whack!*

**Basketball:** The SJC Women's Basketball team won their final home game of the season against Lewis with a score of 72-63, improving their record to 8-12 in the GLVC and 9-17 overall. Michelle Wegner led SJC with a game high of 19 points. The Puma men ended their season on Saturday with a 69-66 loss to Lewis, finishing their season with a 5-15 GLVC record and an 8-18 record overall. Brent Mason led SJC with a game high of 30 points.

**Track:** The 18<sup>th</sup> ranked Lady Puma track team finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place out of 9 teams at the GLVC Indoor Championships. The top two finishers in their respective events received All-GLVC Honors. Winners for the Pumas were Alexis Virtue, Anne Balmes, and Natalie Salinas. The 21<sup>st</sup> ranked Puma men also finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place out of 9 teams. Winning All-GLVC Honors for SJC was Tim Newman who placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the mile with a time of 4:17.95.

**Tennis:** The men's tennis team defeated Anderson 6-3 on Saturday, improving their record to 3-5.



## Just Think About it...

"The fastest way to succeed is to look as if you're playing by somebody else's rules, while quietly playing by your own."  
-Michael Konda

"A heretic is a man who sees with his own eyes."  
-Gothold Ephraim Lessing

"Read, every day, something no one else is reading. Think, every day, something no one else is thinking. Do, every day, something no one else would be silly enough to do. It is bad for the mind to continually be part of unanimity."  
-Christopher Morley

courtesy of quoteland.com

## SJC Poet's Corner

## MY HEART

My heart is tough  
My heart is strong  
My heart makes jokes  
And carries on  
My heart is never sad  
To the passers-by  
My heart through their eyes  
Could never cry

My heart is strong  
So lifting and carefree  
How surprised they'd be  
If they could really see  
My heart has gotten good  
Always wearing a mask  
Making it through each long day  
It's most difficult task

My heart is strong  
Listen to the laughs it's making  
But hold your ear a little closer  
And you can hear  
it breaking

~ Mike Potts

## FOR A REASON

Brother, don't change.  
Sister, keep up.  
There will be times in your life,  
when you don't think you're right.

Brother, let me carry your pain.  
Sister, let me dry your eye.  
I can still help you,  
even from the sky.

It will be all right,  
from a brothers standpoint.  
I will always love you,  
regardless in the end.

Brother, let me carry your pain.  
Sister, let me dry your eye.  
I can still help you,  
even from the sky.

~Leo Hoover

## VOCABULARY BOOSTERS

*Fervid* Pronunciation:

/FUR-vid/ adj : hot, impassioned; fervent "Your fervid remarks are not welcome in my living room."

*Obsequious* Pronunciation: /ob-SEE-kwee-us/ adj Polite or obedient, from fear or from a hope to gain.

"Obsequious employees flattered the CEO at the Christmas Party."

*Rescission* Pronunciation: /ri-SIZH-in/ n : the act of revoking, repealing, or annulling "The rescission by the Supreme Court enraged the country."

*Speleology* Pronunciation: /spee-lee-ol-uh-gee/ n : the scientific study or exploration of caves. "Astrology and speleology are my pastimes."

*Impetuous* Pronunciation: /im-PET-u-us/adj : acting with sudden feeling "His reputation for being impetuous was proved when he jumped in the pool fully clothed."

courtesy of uselessknowledge.com

## "Loving Living"

*I did not sleep last night my ears were either rubbed or filled with gentle verbs.*

*My body lying warm with hers combined like pansies growing wildly somewhere on Earth.*

*My sleep went before my eyes as tiredness never came to take me.  
My sleep was not much other than a meditating massage with words.  
My breathing pattered as hers while I listened as she lie asleep on my chest.*

*Flowing down a river with your body invisible to bumps on rocks with arms spread wide.*

*My thoughts were running and my thinking was released into a tranquil world to live.*

~Patrick J. Smith

## Tid-Bit of the Week

Harvard researchers have found that people who lose a friend, relative, or loved one through death face great physical risks. They are 14 times more likely than normal to suffer a heart attack the day after the death; two days after the traumatic event, they are at risk five times more than normal.

Courtesy of uselessknowledge.com

If you or anyone you know is interested in submitting their poetry, cartoons, art or other creative expressions, e-mail Nick Schafer at nsf3156@saintjoe.edu.

## BLACKHAWK DOWN: Lessons for America

Since its opening weekend, Black Hawk Down has earned well over \$90 million and is still flying high. Based on the book by Mark Bowden, Black Hawk Down tells the story of a botched U.S. military raid in the war-torn city of Mogadishu, Somalia. The film is not studded with stars or interesting dialogue, but instead uses the gruesome experiences of the average soldier in the heat of combat to convey this true story.

Director Ridley Scott gives us just enough background information to understand why in October 1993, this military mission was attempted in the first place: 300,000 Somalis had died of starvation, while warlords intercepted the delivery of food to them.

The story develops from this information, when it was decided that a surprise attack would be made on the warlord's top officials during a meeting in downtown Mogadishu, by ground forces, covered by a fleet of Black Hawk attack helicopters. The film takes us step by step of the entire event, from the briefing of mili-

tary commanders, to the deployment of their men, from the safety of command posts to the hazardous conditions of urban combat.

Though I have never been shot at or struggled through the exhaustion of combat, I would say, Black Hawk Down is about as real as it could get. Inspired by Saving Private Ryan, and a recent series of other war movies, Black Hawk thrives in its realism and intensity of combat situations, from bullets whizzing past for near misses to them sinking deep into bodies for direct hits. The film's rip-roaring action and brow-raising special effects make for 143 minutes of nail-biting and tense shoulders.

It is intense and chaotic, jumping from scene to scene like a pinball machine. This coupled with the unfamiliar faces of big time stars, and the fact that each character has the same crew cut and military fatigues, made it tough to keep the characters straight. We follow several stories through the mission, from General Garrison's (Sam Shepard) disbelief in

Mike Potts  
Reporter

the command post as the entire mission unravels, to Ewan McGregor's

sudden plunge into combat. His previous military specialties were paperwork and coffee-making.

The film clearly illustrates that the bands of hostile Somalis were far better equipped and informed than U.S. military personnel had expected, and that this was, in part, due to the mission turning overwhelmingly disastrous. But that is not the only reason, and for this next one, I find Black Hawk Down to be just as angering than exciting.

In Black Hawk Down, as in other war movies, we watch young men, bloodied and fearful, lay dying. And we listen to their buddies assure them that they will be fine just before they take their last breaths. While it is sad to watch this in any film, I think it was more accepted in films like Saving Private Ryan, for we knew that they were dying not only for a just cause, but a triumphant one as well.

As I sat advertently, watching characters being shot down and others beg-

ging with the higher-ups for more support, I began to get mad. The mission was botched and unsuccessful, when without a doubt, it could have been victorious. At the film's end, we are presented more background of the situation, just as we were from its beginning: 18 Americans were killed, 70 more were wounded, and within weeks, President Clinton pulled troops out of Somalia.

Knowing this was a true story, I left the theater wondering why Americans had gone to Somalia in the first place. As I thought more about it, I remember one character explaining how it was a humanitarian thing to do, while another said of the reasons he risked his life in combat was for "...the men next to you." These explanations helped ease my anger, but not my doubts. Though you will hear continually of Black Hawk Down's ability to entertain with its explosive excitement, I believe the film's real ability was to lie out on the table, the reasons for our nation's reluctance to act aggressively around the world.